

SINGLE TAX DEPARTMENT.

"NONE OF OUR BUSINESS."

[A little girl] was heard to finish her evening prayer with these words: "And I saw a poor little girl on the street to-day, cold and bare footed; but it's none of our business, is it, God?"

"None of our business!" wandering and sinful, All through the streets of the city they go, Hungry and homeless in the wild weather— "None of our business!" Dare we say so?

"None of our business!" Children's wan faces, Haggard and old with their suffering and sin; Hold fast your darlings on tender, warm bosoms, Sorrow without, but the home light within.

What does it matter that some other woman— Some common mother—in bitter despair, Waits in a garret, or sits in a cellar, Too broken-hearted for weeping or prayer?

"None of our business!" Sinful and fallen, How they may jostle us close on the street! Hold back your garments! Scorn! they are used to it: Pass on the other side, lest you should meet.

"None of our business!" On, then, the music: On with the feasting, though hearts break forlorn; Somebody's hungry, somebody's freezing, Somebody's soul will be lost ere the morn.

Somebody's dying (on with the dancing!) One for earth's pottage is selling his soul: One for a bauble has bartered his birthright, Selling his all for a pitiful dole.

Ah! but One goeth abroad on the mountains, Over lone deserts with burning deep sands! Seeking the lost ones (it is His business!) Bruised though His feet are, and torn though His hands.

Thorn-crowned His head and His soul sorrow stricken (Saving men's souls at such infinite cost), Broken His heart for the grief of the nations! It is His business saving the lost! —London Christian Commonwealth.

UNDER THE WHEEL.

Hamlin Garland's New Play—The Single Tax Idea in the Drama.

In the July number of the Arena Mr. Hamlin Garland's new play, "Under the Wheel," is printed in full. It is a play with a purpose, and that purpose is the demonstration that under existing economic conditions there is no escape for the honest toiler from grinding poverty.

The play opens with a scene in a Boston tenement house, where Jason Edwards, his wife and two daughters have their home. Edwards is a man who, having learned his trade and married, began life with the hope of securing a modest competence. His eldest daughter, Allie, evidently received a good education, and at the time the play opens is studying music with a view to becoming a singer. A second daughter, Linnie, much younger than her sister, appears from her talk not to have had Allie's educational advantages, but she is an important figure in the drama. Allie is introduced to us as already engaged to a young newspaper man named Reeves, and the first glimpse we have of the social problem is in a conversation between these two in scene 1. Mrs. Edwards invites the young man to stay to supper and the following colloquy takes place:

Reeves—No, thank you, I've got a little work at the office, and then I've got to go out and report an anti-poverty meeting at the Temple. Special job.

Allie—What kind of a meeting is that, for pity's sake?

Reeves (preparing to go)—Oh, a cranky kind. Henry George started it. Some absurd idea about abolishing poverty.

Allie (with a profound sigh)—I wish it wasn't so absurd. I don't see why poverty is so persistent in this age of invention.

Reeves (as if struck by her words)—Come to think of it, it is more absurd to think the abolition of poverty absurd. Why shouldn't it be abolished? What's the good of progress if it don't? (He muses with bent head.) I don't see where the laugh comes in myself. Do you know, I've been thinking and writing on these things of late? I don't know why; it's in the air, I guess. Everybody's got some cure. (Leans his elbow on a chair, speaks in slow, deep, musing voice.) I stood on the Brooklyn bridge the other day and looked down on New York. Over me soared and sung those stupendous cables, the marvel of man's skill, etched on the sky, delicate as a spider's web. I stood there looking down at the sea of grimy roofs, a lava-like, hideous flood of brick and mortar, cracked and seamed, and monstrous for its lack of line or touch of beauty—a modern city. I saw men running to and fro, like ants, lost in the tumult of life and death struggle. I saw pale girls sewing there in dens reeking with pestilence. I saw myriads of homes where the children could play only in the street or on the sooty roof, colonies of hopeless settlers sixty feet from their mother earth. And over me soared the bridge to testify to the inventive genius of man. And I said then what I say now, that men have invented a thousand ways of producing wealth, but not one for properly distributing it. I don't know where the trouble is. If we once knew the trouble, some body'd find a cure. Abolition of property. (He muses a moment, then starts.) Well, good-bye, I'll write this up in a leader. (With a return to his cheerful manner, takes her hand, makes an elaborate obeisance.) I await your pleasure. Farewell, my queen. (Goes out without looking back.)

Allie—(Looks after him smilingly. As she comes back the smile fades from her face.) Isn't it terrible to be poor, mother?

Mrs. E. (with quiet pathos)—Yes, dear; but I've kind o' got used to it. I don't

look for any thing else now. I don't care so much for myself, but I'd like to see my children safe from it.

Allie (seated with bent head)—Oh, how sweet it must be to be free from the fear of poverty! To feel that you don't need to scrimp and pinch, and turn dresses and dye feathers, and wear old shoes; to feel that food will come when you need it; to have the soul set free for art. (Leaping up, her face aglow.) But I'll win yet, mother; I feel in my soul that I have the gift. I'll take you out of this—

Presently Edwards returns, who, after some chaff with Linnie, remarks to his wife that it seems very hot and that it is absolutely worse than the shop. The conversation between them gives an idea of the financial condition of the family and the rooms in which they are compelled to live, and incidentally introduces some other characters, ending with the resolution on the part of Edwards and his family to go west.

Edwards—Why don't you open the door?

Mrs. E.—I can't stand the noise and smell tonight, my head aches. Sometimes it seems 's if I couldn't bear it, but I think o' people who don't have as much as we do, and so I keep a-goin'.

Edwards (walking about)—That's about the only way, t' be patient. It makes me wild sometimes. (Goes to lounge and drops heavily upon it. Allie takes a fan from the wall and fans him, stoops and kisses him.)

Allie—Poor papa—its dreadful to see you come home so tired. (Brushes the hair back from his forehead.)

Edwards (bitterly)—It's just one eternal grind, not a day off. I'm glad I don't believe in another world—I wouldn't be sure o' rest after I got there.

Mrs. E. (shocked)—Why, Jason, what are you sayin'? You must've had a hard day in the shop. It's dreadful hot for the first week in June.

Edwards (raising to his elbow)—First week in June! Why, mother, it's just thirty-two years next week since we was married. If you remember how old Derry looked that day? Flowers and berries, and daisies, an' birds (rising)—why, mother, that was Heaven an' we didn't know it! Down here in this cussed alley we don't know any thing about June, only it makes our tenements hotter and sicker. I s'pose the cows up there are knee deep in the grass, and the wind smellin' like the front door o' Heaven. We didn't look for this kind o' thing when we left Derry, did we? We didn't look forward to a tenement?

Mrs. E.—No, Jason—but set up an' eat sumptin'.

Linnie—Poppa, I wish we could go up in the real country this summer—you know you promised—

Allie—Sh, Linnie; papa will do his best.

Edwards (going to the table)—I'll try, little one, but I'm afraid there ain't no vacation for us. The fight gets harder every year. Oh, I'm too tired to eat, Jennie. Well, Allie, how'd y' come out with your recital today?

Allie (putting her hand in his)—Very well, father; only I wished you were there.

Edwards—I wisht I could, but I can't. I got 'o keep goin'. Rent an' taxes go on when I picnic, but wages don't. (Shoves back from the table and sits dejectedly.)

Linnie (starting up)—O poppa, a man put a bill under our door that said rent on it. I'll get it. (Brings it from the corner, reads it slowly.)

Linnie (reading): Dear Sir: At the expiration of your lease, July 1, your rent will be increased five dollars per month. Please notify us if you intend to remain. JOHN NONCROSS, Agent.

Edwards—Good God! and my wages cut down last week. Ain't they got no mercy, these human wolves? Hain't I got all I can stand now? Look at it! (Looking at the walls.) Look at this tenement! Hotter, rottener, shabbier, but rent must go up, Jennie! Children! I don't know what I am going to do. I don't see any way out; I can see we're bein' crushed—

Linnie (going to him)—Don't cry, poppa, don't mind him.

(As Edwards sits thus with bowed head, Julian Berg, a pale, student-like German, enters at the door. He is accompanied by a full-bearded, sinister-looking man, who stands in the doorway, stolidly smoking a long pipe. Berg holds a rent bill.)

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Bread on the Waters.

We can not hope to "bring in our sheaves" every evening, but can occasionally have the quiet satisfaction of seeing nice slices of "the staff of life" homeward bound on the wavelets of time. Just observe how reckless are becoming the two very prudent only dailies of our "Texas Athens!"

Within two years property owners will be paving street after street in Waco and paying all the expense themselves. They will do this because it will pay to do it and because the city will not be able to meet all the requests for paving. Remember the prediction.—Waco Day.

Yes, it will pay them to do it. The value of the land only is enhanced by such improvements, and so it seems but justice that the owner should foot the bills. As the farmer's field is made more productive by drainage, so is the town lot rendered more valuable by improved sidewalks and streets.—Waco Evening News.

Cheer up comrades!—J. L. Caldwell, Mart, Tex., in The Standard.

A STRAW: The common council of Augusta, Ga., last week resolved to exempt from taxation a large private bridge that had been constructed by a land company, on the ground that it was a public convenience.

RECIPROCITY AMENDMENT.

Or Retaliation Proposed to Be Placed at the President's Discretion Affecting Certain Imports.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—The following is the text of the reciprocity amendment to the Tariff bill in the form of a new section proposed by Senator Aldrich, from the Committee on Finance.

Section 2. That the exemptions from duty of sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, provided for in this act, are made with a view to secure reciprocal trade with countries producing these articles, and for this purpose, on and after July 1, 1901, whenever and so often as the President shall be satisfied that the Government of any country producing and exporting sugars, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, raw and unmanufactured, or any of such articles, imposes duties or other exactions upon the agricultural or other products of the United States, which in view of the free introduction of such sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, into the United States, he may deem reciprocally unequal and unjust, he shall have the power and it shall be his duty to suspend by proclamation to that effect, the provisions of this act relating to the free introduction of such sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the production of such country for such time as he shall deem just, and in such case and during such suspension duties shall be levied, collected and paid upon sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the product of or exported from such designated countries as follows, namely: "All sugars not above No. 12, Dutch standard in color, shall pay duty on their polariscopic test as follows, namely: All sugars not above No. 12, Dutch standard in color, all tank bottoms, sirup, soft cane, juice or of beet juice, melada, concentrated melada, concentrated and concentrated molasses, testing by the polariscopic not above 73 degrees, seven-tenths of a cent per pound, and for every additional degree or fraction of a degree shown by the polariscopic test, two hundredths of one cent per pound additional. All sugars above No. 12, D. S. in color, shall be classified by the Dutch standard of color and pay duty as follows: All sugar above No. 12 and not above 16 D. S. of color, 14 cents per pound; all sugar above No. 16 and not above No. 20 D. S. of color, 14 cents per pound; all sugars above No. 20 D. S. of color, 2 cents per pound; molasses testing about 66 degrees 4 cents a gallon. Sugar draining and sugar sweepings shall be subject to duty either as molasses or sugar, as the case may be, according to polariscopic test. On coffee 8 cents per pound. On tea 10 cents per pound. Hides, raw or unmanufactured, whether dry, salted or pickled, Angora goat skins, raw without the wool, unmanufactured asses' skins, raw or unmanufactured, and skins, except sheep skins with the wool on 14 cents per pound."

HORRIBLE DEATH.

A Young Man's Terrible Fate at a County Fair.

WOODFIELD, O., Aug. 31.—Yesterday was the last day of the fair here and more than 10,000 people assembled to see the final races and a balloon ascension by Carter, the aeronaut. The balloon was a small hot air affair and was kept in its position over the furnace by ropes held by the bystanders. When it had been inflated and all was ready Carter gave the word to let go. The balloon shot upward and the thousands of spectators were horrified to see, dangling at the end of a small line, a young man named Milton Redin, an officer of the fair association. Hundreds of persons shouted for him to drop, but Redin was either entangled or had lost his head and he clutched frantically at the rope, attempting to climb up the slender line into the basket. A number of women in the dense crowd fainted and all the spectators grew sick with horror as the balloon sailed upward and began moving southward. Carter could be seen making desperate efforts to draw Redin up the rope on which he swung to and fro. For fully ten minutes their efforts continued and then, at a height of over one thousand feet the balloon took a sudden lurch, Redin's hold was loosened and his body shot downward. It was found half a mile away. The clothing was torn off, all his bones broken and the body crushed out of all human semblance. Redin's brothers and sisters were in the throng and saw his terrible fall.

NAVAL DESERTIONS.

Wholesale Desertion of Seamen and Marines—Tyranny of the Ship's Officers.

NEW YORK, Sept. 1.—Since the United States man-of-war Chicago came into this port, in the latter part of June, there have been almost 100 desertions from her. Marines and seamen have deserted in batches of five and six. More are expected to follow.

The runaways, so the former companions of the deserters say, have left the navy in this manner simply because the officers in general, and Captain Robeson in particular, have treated them like so many cattle. During the entire cruise of the White Squadron the men say they were not treated like human beings. They furnish many incidents to illustrate these statements. One was found in the case of the firemen aboard the Chicago. During the torrid weather the temperature in the fire room varied from 130 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The firemen pleaded for cool water to drink and were unable to obtain it, for the reason that the officers of the ship captured all the ice to keep their wine and beer cool. They have a machine aboard the Chicago which converts salt water into fresh. As the water comes from this condenser it is very warm. They also have a machine for making ice. On days when some of the firemen were sinking unconscious beside their furnace doors, those who were able to bear up amid the awful heat begged for some with which to cool their drinking water. But the officers refused to let them have it. They could drink the warm water or go without. The worst of it all was they did not dare to make a complaint to Commander Robeson. They were afraid he would order them below to be bound hand and foot in irons and to be fed on bread and water.

LABOR DAY.

Celebration of the Day Throughout the Country—A Holiday and Street Parade in Various Cities.

TOPEKA, Kan., Sept. 2.—Labor day was generally observed by the people of Topeka. At ten o'clock the procession formed on Kansas avenue and Tenth. It was the finest parade ever seen in Kansas. The parade was one hour in passing and was over three miles in length. It was headed by the Metropolitan police, followed by the fire department, trades' unions, societies, floats representing various branches of business, Farmers' Alliance and other organizations. A reviewing stand had been erected on Kansas avenue, where Governor Humphrey and State officers, and Mayor Cafran and the City Council reviewed the parade.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 1.—Several thousand members of trades unions of the two Kansas Cities paraded here. The weather was fine and the outpouring was creditable. Mayor Holmes declared the day a public holiday.

CHICAGO, Sept. 1.—Labor day was generally observed in this city. The weather was bright and cool and could not be more auspicious for the parades and subsequent picnics and games in the various suburban parks. There were two parades, one under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Assembly with about 30,000 men in line and one of the Knights of Labor, who turned out with about 1,000 men.

BOSTON, Sept. 1.—The laborers in and around Boston celebrated Labor day in the same general manner as in previous years. The day was a legal holiday and all business, including the editions of the evening papers, was suspended. The parade was the largest that has ever been seen on this day, the divided councils that prevailed in former years having united their forces in one grand procession, in which 10,000 participated.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Sept. 1.—Labor day was generally observed here. All the banks, factories and mills and many business houses were closed. The day was bright and nearly 10,000 workmen, representing all the trades in the city, took part in the parade. Similar demonstrations were held at Jeannette, Greensburg and other surrounding towns.

OMAHA, Sept. 1.—The second observance of the State Labor day was held here with a general suspension of business. There was a parade of 8,000 men and a speech by ex-Senator Van Wyck. A barbecue and daylight fireworks ended the celebration.

NEW YORK, Sept. 2.—Labor day was celebrated yesterday in a grander style than ever. All the Government and municipal offices, banks, etc., were closed. The city was gaily decorated with the flags of all nations, and hundreds of thousands lined the sidewalks on the routes of the processions. There were two parades, that of the Central Labor Union, which took in the west side of the city, and that of the Central Labor Federation, which stirred up the denizens of the East side. At least 25,000 men turned out in the latter, while the Central Labor Union marshaled about 20,000 men.

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 2.—The first Labor day ever celebrated in this State, and which is recognized as such by the laws of the State, was generally observed in this city yesterday. The weather was pleasant and the procession probably the largest ever witnessed in the capital city. Every trade and labor union in the city was represented with quite a number of farmers, mainly members of the Alliance. The procession marched to the park, where short addresses, appropriate to the occasion, were delivered. All the banks and many business houses were closed.

EMPHIS, Kan., Sept. 2.—Labor day was well observed here, all the banks and most of the business houses closing. Fully 1,000 visitors were in town, and a parade participated in by thousands took place in the forenoon. In the afternoon there was a picnic, at which speeches were made by Hon. J. F. Wilites, candidate for Governor, W. F. Rightmire candidate for Chief Justice, Mrs. Lease and others. A balloon ascension and races were also auxiliaries of the picnic.

DENVER, Col., Sept. 2.—Labor day was generally observed here yesterday, all places of business being closed. Fully 10,000 workmen were in the parade, nearly all being in uniform and bearing the insignia of some labor organization. After the parade the suburban trains carried thousands to Military park.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Sept. 2.—Labor day was celebrated here by a grand turnout of labor unions. The parade was the most imposing ever seen in St. Joseph, 3,000 men being in line. A picnic was held at Highland park.

SQUAW MAN'S APOSTLE.

Paul Going to Washington to Consult the Powers.

GAINESVILLE, Tex., Sept. 2.—Ex-Senator Sam Paul, late Progressive candidate for Governor of the Chickasaws, states that he will leave for Washington in a few days to have the validity of the August election passed upon by the Supreme Court of the United States. He claims that the election was carried by the boldest fraud and intimidation. Heretofore, he says, the Progressive party has been numerously represented in the Legislature, the lower house of the body which preceded the one recently elected having had nine members to eleven of the Anti-Progressive party, and the Senate bore the same proportion, while in the late election not a single candidate of the Progressive ticket was granted a certificate of election.

RIOTS IN CHILI.

Scenes of Disorder in Valparaiso and Santiago—Houses and Stores Sacked—The Trouble the Result of Late Strikes.

PANAMA, Aug. 28.—The following account of the labor riots in Valparaiso, Chili, have been received here:

It was early known the launchmen and stevedores had struck and they had threatened to attack the custom house, the workmen in which were compelled to join the mob. The strikers demanded payment in coin—not in notes—and this demand caused the doors of the custom house to close—a step which was promptly followed throughout the city. Pickhandles and handles of other tools were obtained, and armed with these the mob proceeded to the iron works of Lever, Murphy & Co., where they did immense damage. On the wharf the fires in the steam winches were extinguished.

At one p. m. a number of citizens requested the authorities to act. But meanwhile the mob had swept through the city, plundering stores, shops, drinking places and warehouses, and carrying off every thing portable. At some places rifle shots were fired, but as the cartridges were soon exhausted the defenders had to leave the property at the mercy of the mob. Meanwhile the police were assembled in strong force at the very spot where no mob was to be seen.

Two hours after these disorders had occurred, and after eighty had been wounded and some twelve killed, the authorities determined to send out artillery and infantry pickets and defend the intendente and other public offices.

As the day closed the streets were filled with people, and every thing indicated that rough scenes were about to occur. The Union printing office was soon attacked and the mob had to be driven off.

At one p. m. the second day the mass moved to Victoria square, and here it divided into three separate bodies which took different directions. One body 600 strong marched through Victoria street throwing stones at the houses. Branches were torn from the trees and wherever it was believed work was in progress the mob halted and was joined by the workmen. This step was first adopted at the macaroni factory of Plumb & Co.; then at the German bakery, and then in some ten or twelve other establishments until the Merceil Church was reached.

Meanwhile similar and even worse scenes were being enacted in the Baron quarter. The railroad shops were completely destroyed and their contents thrown into the sea. The female car drivers' house was completely demolished. The agency of the Baron was sacked and Ewing's biscuit factory was completely destroyed.

The sack of the National biscuit factory had not terminated when a picket arrived and the mob not retiring, opened fire, killing one of the rioters and wounding four others.

But this did not frighten the mob, which had rapidly increased in numbers. Cries, whistles, threats and yells in favor of the populace and of "Death to the rich and the pretenders" proved that no thought of dispersing as yet had entered the minds of the rioters, while they were again joined by other mobs which came down from the hills.

By four o'clock the mob numbered at least 5,000 and although repeatedly charged by the police, who employed sabers in their efforts, proved ineffectual, although they again left some twenty on the ground.

By five p. m. the mob had almost disappeared to the drinking shops and groggeries.

At seven p. m. cavalry pickets made several charges in the Amanadral, where stores were being sacked.

At 9:30 p. m. a train arrived with a battalion commanded by General Valdivieco, and subsequently a corps of 500 strong. General Valdivieco, directly he arrived, rode through the city with his escort and a picket of cavalry.

On the hills around Valparaiso many outrages and robberies were committed. At Santiago somewhat similar rioting occurred at the session of the deputies.

CLARKSON'S EXIT.

The First Assistant Postmaster-General's Reasons For Leaving Office Purely Business.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—Mr. Clarkson, First Assistant Postmaster-General, practically concluded his service in the Post-office Department Saturday. The President much desired his further continuance in the place, but Mr. Clarkson was unable to remain longer. It is stated that Mr. Clarkson assumed the office in March, 1899, only at the strong persuasion of the President, the Republican National Committee and the leading men of the party, and that he has remained in it since against his own wishes. He said to a reporter of the Associated Press:

"I accepted this office unwillingly, and for a term of months, not years; and I lay it down gladly. My relations with the President and Postmaster-General have never been any thing else but pleasant. But I have no liking for office-holding, and while the postal service is one that will absorb the interest and command the pride of any one connected with it, I very much prefer private life and its independence. The reports that I have given up Iowa and my home are incorrect. It is the best State in the Union, and my lot is cast with it."

Mr. Clarkson will very soon assume the presidency of the Judson Pneumatic Railway Company, which applies new principles to locomotion and to motive power in cities, and which is now building a railway in Washington City.